

Message Text

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ACTION EA-13

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ADP-00 NSCE-00 NSC-10 INR-09 CIAE-00

NSAE-00 PM-03 DODE-00 PRS-01 IO-03 EUR-10 RSR-01

RSC-01 /066 W

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P 100330 Z JUN 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2937

USDEL JEC PARIS PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 10324

LIMDIS

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT PINS MILI VS

SUBJECT: MR 2 DAILY SITREP, JUNE 9

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION SAIGON FROM NHA TRANG JUNE 9
REPEATED TO YOU

QUOTE NHA TRANG 0597

1. SECURITY SITUATION: DEFINITE INCREASE IN ENEMY ACTIVITY
REPORTED FOR THIRD CONSECUTIVE DAY IN MR 2. TOTAL OF 25
INCIDENTS REPORTED BY NHA TRANG TACTICAL OPERATIONS CENTER (TOC)
AND POLOFFS IN PROVINCES. THERE WERE 11 ENEMY ATTACKS BY FIRE ON
RVNAF UNITS, SIX MININGS, FOUR GROUND ATTACKS ON RVNAF UNITS,
AND FOUR FIREFIGHTS BETWEEN VC AND RVNAF UNITS ON PATROL.
PREPONDERANCE OF INCIDENTS (12) OCCURRED IN BINH DINH, FIVE IN
PHU YEN, FOUR IN KONTUM, THREE IN BINH THUAN, AND ONE IN DARLAC.
WITH INCREASED FIGHTING THERE WAS A CORRESPONDING INCREASE IN
RVNAF CASUALTIES: NVA/ VC: SEVEN KIA; RVNAF: FOUR KIA, 43 WIA.
TWO CIVILIANS WERE WOUNDED BY VC ANTI- PERSONNEL MINE IN PHU YEN.
ALTHOUGH NUMBER OF INCIDENTS REPORTED IN BINH DINH WAS TRIPLE
THAT IN KONTUM, RVNAF CASUALTIES IN TWO PROVINCES WERE ALMOST
THE SAME: BINH DINH REPORTED 20 RVNAF WOUNDED AND 3 KILLED,
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WHILE KONTUM REPORTED 19 WOUNDED.

2. ACCORDING TO NHA TRANG TOC, ALL EXCEPT ONE OF RVNAF CASUALTIES IN KONTUM RESULTED FROM TWO ENEMY ATTACKS ON COMPANIES OF 253 RD RF BATTALION AROUND 0800 H ON JUNE 8. ONE ATTACK WAS ON BATTALION HQS OF THE 253 RD, LOCATED ON NORTHERN OUTSKIRTS OF TRUNG NGHIA VILLAGE (12 KMS WEST OF KONTUM CITY), AND OTHER WAS ON TWO COMPANIES OF SAME BN LOCATED ABOUT 14 KMS DUE SOUTH OF BN HQ. (ALTHOUGH NHA TRANG TOC PORTRAYED THESE ATTACKS AS " ISOLATED" INCIDENTS, BOTH ARE PART OF NVA INCURSION THAT BEGAN NIGHT OF JUNE 7 AND DESCRIBED NHA TRANG 0593.)

3. FIGHTING AROUND TRUNG NGHIA VILLAGE HAS INTENSIFIED SINCE FOREGOING INCIDENT REPORTS WERE COMPILED. KONTUM POLOFF REPORTS THAT TRUNG NGHIA, SURROUNDED MORNING OF JUNE 8, IS OCCUPIED BY NVA AS OF MORNING JUNE 9. CURRENT FIGHTING (JUNE 9) IS STILL CONCENTRATED ALONG ROUTE 511, BETWEEN TRUNG NGHIA AND DAK LECK.

4. WESTERN APPROACH TO KONTUM CITY HAS TRADITIONALLY BEEN THE MOST VULNERABLE, AND NVA/ VC GAINS SINCE EVENING OF JUNE 7 ARE THUS CONSIDERED SERIOUS. POLOFF DOUBTS, HOWEVER, THAT ENEMY'S NEAR- TERM OBJECTIVES INCLUDE ATTACK ON KONTUM CITY ITSELF. REASONS: OTHER APPROACHES TO CITY (NORTHWEST, NORTH AND NORTHEAST) HAVE REMAINED QUIET; THERE HAS BEEN NO ENEMY ATTEMPT TO CLOSE QL-14 TO PLEIKU AND THUS ISOLATE THE CITY; AND CITY ITSELF HAS NOT BEEN SHELLED SINCE JUNE 6. SIGNED TEARE UNQUOTE WHITEHOUSE

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** LIMDIS

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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